MARVEL COMICS

2099

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X-NATION 2099

™

MARTYR

DIRECT EDITION

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MCGUINNESS
HOLDREDGE

THIS IS X-NATION-- A GROUP OF MUTANTS GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES THAT SET THEM APART FROM THE REST OF HUMANITY...

CLARION-- THE SONIC SUPER-CONDUCTOR.

WILLOW-- MISTRESS OF THE META-MORPHOSIS.

WULFF-- THE FERAL CHILD.

NOSTROMO-- THE TORTURED TECHNOPATH.

UPROAR-- SUPER-SIZED POWERHOUSE.

DECEMBER-- THE ICE QUEEN.

TWILIGHT-- REALITY WARPS AT HER COMMAND.

SMITH-- MASTER OF ALL THINGS METALLIC.

AND THIS TOWERING INFERNO OF MOLTEN STEEL AND BLAZING STAINED GLASS--

--KNOWN THROUGHOUT HALO CITY AS THE XAVIER SHELTER FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN--

--IS THEIR HOME.

AT LEAST, IT USED TO BE...

WHAT'S THE *PLAN*, LEADER-MAN?

I WANT YOU *EXTRA LARGE* AND *IN CHARGE* OF THE ROOF, ***UPROAR!***

DIG!

DECEMBER! THINK YOU CAN GO *SUB-ZERO* AND DOUSE SOME OF THOSE FLAMES?

COME ON, C-- I AM, LIKE, THE *ORIGINAL* ***FREEZY FREAKY!***

IF YOU SAY SO.

WULFF! SCRAMBLE INSIDE AND SEE IF YOU CAN *SNIFF OUT* ANY ***SURVIVORS!***

GRRRRRR!

FSSHH!

BETTER WATCH YOUR BUTTS, GUYS! I CAN ONLY GENERATE SO MUCH *ICE*, SO *FAST*, AND THIS SCORCHER'S REALLY STARTING TO ***SPREAD!***

YEEE-OUUUCH! I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT SOME SERIOUS, NO-NONSENSE *BURN-AGE!*

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING! THE TEMPERATURE'S RISING SO HIGH THAT EVEN IF I WILL IT OTHERWISE, THE HEAT STILL PENETRATES MY *"SPHERE OF INFLUENCE"!*

BESIDES THE FACT THAT YOU'RE *TOTALLY* ***H-O-T*** YOURSELF--

--ARE YOU OKAY, ***SMITH?***

I'M FINE, ***TWILIGHT***-- THAT'S *SWEET* OF YOU TO ASK.

SISTER NICK AND THE OTHERS MIGHT STILL BE TRAPPED AND BURNIN' TO DEATH IN THERE--

--AND YOU TWO ARE, LIKE, ***24-7 GA-GA*** OVER EACH OTHER! *GEEZ!*

HEY, ***TOO-TALL!*** YOU FIND ANYTHIN'?

RRRUMPF!

NEGATORIOUS, ***FANG-FACE.*** NOT A SINGLE SOUL LEFT INSIDE THE JOINT. EVERYONE MUSTA BOLTED BEFORE-- *WAITAMINUTE...*

Oh, SHOCK...

INSIDE, AS THE SHELTER IS CONSUMED...

I DON'T GET IT, GUYS-- WHO WOULD'VE WANTED TO BLOW UP YOUR HOME?*

BEATS THE SHOCK OUTTA *ME*. BUT I PROMISE YOU THIS, MAN--

--I'M GONNA BEAT THE SHOCK OUT OF *THEM* ONCE I FIND OUT WHO DID THIS!!

*TRAGEDY STRUCK LAST ISSUE. --MARK

≒SNIFF≒ ≒SNIFF≒ HOLD IT!

LASER BLASTS... CHARRED FLESH... NO HEARTBEAT...

≒SNIFF≒ ≒SNIFF≒ **DEAD, ALL DEAD.**

THIS IS TOO BIZARRE. THE *SISTERHOOD* WAS ALWAYS SO *STRICT*, SO *TOUGH*...

HOW COULD ANYONE OF HAVE EVER TRASHED BOTH THEM *AND* THE SHELTER SO HEINOUSLY?

"SISTERHOOD"--?

UH-HUH-- THE ***SISTERHOOD OF THE HOWLING COMMANDMENTS.*** THEY RAN THE SHELTER WITH AN *IRON FIST*--

--AND MORE OFTEN THAN *NOT*--

--AN *IRON ROD!*

COME OFF IT, *TWI*-- YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT 'CUZ YOU NEVER WANTED T'LISTEN TO 'EM.

YEAH... WHAT-*EVER*. JUST CONCENTRATE ON GETTING THOSE DOORS OPEN AND *ZIP IT*, **DOG-BOY.**

GRRRRRR... DOOR'S TOO HEAVY... WON'T BUDGE...

HER PULSE IS SO *FAINT*-- I DON'T THINK SHE'S GONNA MAKE IT!

UN-*LESS*...

...*TWILIGHT!*

IF YOU WRAP YOUR *SPHERE OF INFLUENCE* AROUND HER, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN WARP REALITY AND HEAL SISTER NICK!

B-BUT I-I'VE NEVER USED MY POWERS THAT WAY BEFORE, CLARION.

WHAT IF IT *K-KILLS* HER?!

I MEAN, SHE'S GOT ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE AS IT IS...

WHAT THE SHOCK DID YOU JUST SAY?! YA KNOW SOMETHIN', TWILIGHT-- YOU ARE SO SHOCKIN' ***SELFISH!***

YOU'D SIT BACK AND LET SISTER NICK DIE LIKE THIS, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE *SCARED!?*

NO, WULFF. SHE IS *RIGHT*. THIS IS THE ***END*** FOR ME.

KNOW THIS, GIRL-- I HAVE ***FAITH*** THAT YOU WILL CARRY ON WHERE WE HAVE LEFT OFF.

I'VE ***ALWAYS*** HAD FAITH IN YOU, TWILIGHT. IN *ALL* OF YOU, MY ***CHILDREN***...

WELL, BABE-- WHAT'CHA GONNA DO?

WITHOUT A WORD, TWILIGHT KNEELS BESIDE THE DYING MOTHER SUPERIOR.

TAKING NICK'S LIMP HAND GENTLY IN HER OWN, SHE SILENTLY PRAYS THAT THIS WON'T MAKE THINGS ***WORSE***.

BUT ONCE HER POWER KICKS IN AND THE FABRIC OF REALITY CONTORTS AROUND THEM...

...TWILIGHT UNFORTUNATELY MAKES THINGS INFINITELY WORSE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER, TWI?!

YEAARGH!!

I DUNNO! SHE WAS PULLING THROUGH, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...!

OH, GOD-- I CAN FEEL HER *HEART* STOPPING! I'M LOSING HER!

GOTTA... KEEP IT... TOGETHER, GIRL! CAN'T LET... SISTER NICK... DIE!!

NO... GIRL. THIS... IS MY... TIME.

LET... ME... GO... GRACEFULLY.

GO LIMP, LADIES-- I GOTCHA!

TWILIGHT'S SHAKING LIKE A LEAF, AND SISTER NICK DON'T LOOK SO HOT, EITHER.

I'VE GOT A *BAAAAD* FEELING ABOUT THIS...

HOLD ON FOR JUST A LITTLE *LONGER*, SISTER NICK-- PLEASE ***HOLD ON!***

FOR *ME*-- FOR ***ALL*** OF US-- YOU'VE GOTTA *KEEP FIGHTING!*

I'M AFRAID-- ≒KOFF KOFF≒ MY *FIGHTING* ***DAYS*** ARE-- ≒ACK ACK≒ OVER.

BUT I WAS *SO CLOSE!* I KNOW I CAN SAVE YOU IF YOU'LL JUST GIVE ME *ONE MORE CHANCE!!*

WE ARE GIVEN... BUT ONE CHANCE... AT *LIFE*, MY CHILD.

IT IS IN... OUR OWN HANDS... TO MAKE IT... *MEANINGFUL*. TO MAKE IT WORTH...

...SOMETHING...

WITH HER FINAL WORDS RESONATING IN THE EARS OF HER YOUNG CHARGES...

...SISTER NICHOLAS BRIDGE AT LAST GIVES UP THE GHOST...

...AND IS GONE.

AS X-NATION MOURNS THE LOSS OF THEIR FRIEND...

AWWW... AIN'T IT A CRYIN' SHAME?

WIT'OUT DOSE **FREAKY NUNS** AROUND T'PROTECT 'EM-- DESE KIDS AIN'T NUTHIN' BUT A BUNCHA *CHUMPS!*

TRASH AND **SHIV** ARE MEMBERS OF THE WILD BOY GANG THAT WULFF USED TO RUN WITH BACK IN THE DAY.

TO SAY THE FEELINGS THESE MISCREANT MUTANTS HARBOR FOR THEIR EX-PARTNER-IN-CRIME AND HIS CURRENT CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ARE FAR LESS THAN **AMICABLE**...

...WOULD BE A SERIOUS **UNDER-STATEMENT.**

MAN, I'M ITCHIN' T'GET BACK AT X-NATION FER GETTIN' US LOCKED UP, *SHIV.**

BUT THE ONE T'ING I DON' UNNER-STAND IS, WHY AIN'T WE WAITIN' FER THE **BIG BOSS?**

*TRASH, YOU *IDIOT*...

*BACK IN X-NATION #1 --MARK

QUIT FLAPPIN' YER GUMS AND *SHUT THE SHOCK UP!*

YER GONNA BLOW OUR **COVER!**

SMACK

OH. RIGHT. *MY BAD...*

BUT, SHOULDN'T WE HOLD OFF UNTIL **DORIAN**--

ARE YOU *MENTAL*? DORIAN LEFT US ROTTIN' IN STIR T'BECOME **DOOM'S LAPDOG**, YOU MORON! HE *AIN'T* COMIN' BACK.

WARBIRD'S IN CHARGE NOW, SO HE'S CALLIN' THE SHOTS. IF HE SAYS WE TAKE THESE PUNKS DOWN HARD, THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO!

BESIDES, WITH THIS PLACE BURNED TO A CRISP, X-NATION'S FLAT OUT **HOMELESS.**

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE *STRUNG OUT* ON HALO CITY'S STREETS--

--AND THEN THEY'RE **MEAT!**

DAWN.

WITH THE BODIES OF THE DEPARTED HOWLERS RESTING PEACEFULLY AT LONG LAST...

...AN EXHAUSTED X-NATION REFLECTS ON FRIENDS LOST, AND THE LIFE THEY LEAVE BEHIND.

Y'ALL KNOW THAT I WAS SISTER NICK'S *FAVORITE*, DON'TCHA?

GET OVER YOURSELF-- YOU WERE SO *NOT*!

DON'T BE *JEALOUS*, WULFFIE-- YOU DIDN'T GET TO KNOW SISTER NICK LIKE I DID.

OH, PUH-*LEASE*! THE ONLY WAY YOU GOT T'KNOW SISTER NICK WAS IN DETENTION, UPCHUCK!

OK, SO I SPENT WHAT? FIVE-- MAYBE *TEN*-- HOURS A WEEK IN "*THE DOGHOUSE?*" SO WHAT?

TRY MORE LIKE *FIFTEEN*!

YEAH. YEAH. YEAH... WHATEVER!

SHOCK, I WAS SUCH A ***PUNK*** BACK IN THE DAY-- I SPENT MY *ENTIRE FRESHMAN YEAR* AT XAVIER'S IN DETENTION!

MAN, YOU'RE SUCH A ***DELINQUENT*** NOW-- YOU COULD EVEN GET IN DUTCH WITH THE SISTERS JUST BY *SLEEPIN'*!

GRANTED, YOU ALWAYS DID IT DURING ***CEREBRA'S*** *PSYCHIC PHYSICS* CLASS...

WHAT A ***TOTAL*** SHOCKIN' ***SNOOZER*** THAT WAS!

YEAH, I WAS A ROYAL PAIN-- BUT THAT DON'T MEAN I DIDN'T GIVE ***MEGA-MAD PROPS*** TO THE HOWLERS.

THEY *TOTALLY ROCKED* SERIOUS ***BUTT!***

WELL, AT LEAST THEY USEDTA...

AND AS HER FRIENDS REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES SHARED UNDER THE HOWLERS' STERN TUTELAGE...

...TWILIGHT CAN'T ESCAPE THE LINGERING REGRET OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAD SHE HEEDED THEIR WORDS EVEN ONCE...

IF ONLY I HAD TRIED HARDER DURING OUR TRAINING SESSIONS-- LEARNED TO MASTER MY POWERS BETTER. BUT I *DIDN'T*, AND NOW SISTER NICK'S *DEAD*--

--AND IT'S ALL MY *FAULT*...

TWILIGHT'S REALLY TAKING THIS HARD. MAN, SHE SURE IS SOMETHING *SPECIAL*.

UH, YEAH... I GUESS SHE'S *OKAY*.

I THINK SHE'S *TOTALLY* ***RAD.***

"*RAD*"? LIKE, GET A ***MODERN VOCABULARY,*** MAN!

IF YOU SAY SO...

...***DORK!***

SHOULD I GO OVER TO HER? I MEAN, I GUESS I COULD, BUT WHAT IF SHE JUST WANTS TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW?

SHE'S NOT THE *ONLY* ONE...

TELL YA WHAT-- WHY DON'T YOU DO US *BOTH* A FAVOR AND GO TALK TO HER, A'IGHT? SHE COULD USE SOME *COMPANY*.

YA THINK SO? REALLY?! OKAY, I'M GONNA DO IT! MAN, SHE'S SO ***FRESH!***

"*FRESH*"?! MAN, WHAT ***CENTURY*** DO YOU THINK THIS IS!?

HMPH. ***JEALOUS*** MUCH, HAYES?

HEY, TWILIGHT-- WAIT UP! LOOK, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH...

MIDNIGHT, ON THE SHIFTING SHORES OF THE PACIFIC COAST...

<HEAR ME, FATHER NEPTUNE!>*

THIS IS SISTER WHISPER.

AS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE XAVIER SHELTER MASSACRE...

...SHE ALONE REMAINS TO CONSECRATE [redacted] FALLEN COMRADES' BODIES.

<I BESEECH THEE, O BENEFICENT ONE-->

<--PLEASE ACCEPT THE *SOUL* OF MY SISTER-IN-ARMS INTO YOUR EMBRACE WITH LOVING KINDNESS.>

<HERS WAS AN IGNOBLE FATE-- WRATHFULLY INFLICTED BY THE HAND OF A MADMAN-- AND HER WARRIOR'S SPIRIT SEEKS THE GLORIOUS PEACE OF OBLIVION.>

AND WHILE THIS SACRED RITUAL IS EXTREMELY ORTHODOX IN CONTENT...

*TRANSLATED FROM THE ATLANTEAN. --MARITIME MARK

...THANKS TO WHISPER'S MUTANT ABILITY TO CAUSE COMBUSTIVE REACTIONS...

...IN PRACTICE, IT IS NOT!

FWOOSH

FASSH

<FOR LIFE AND DEATH ARE AS YOU PROMISED, O LORD...>

<...FROM THE WATERS WE *RISETH UP*, AND IN THE WATERS WE ARE *LAIN* TO OUR FINAL REST.>

<I THEREFORE COMMIT ***SISTER DEBBI'S*** ASHES TO THE SEA *FOREVERMORE*.>

<FAREWELL, MY FRIEND...

DAWN.

NEVER ONCE DURING THE LONG NIGHT DID WHISPER MOVE FROM THIS VERY SPOT.

NEVER ONCE DID SHE AVERT [redacted] EYES FROM THE RAGING PYRE.

ENTRANCED BY THE FIRE, SHE NUMBLY GAZED AS FLICKER UPON FLICKER OF FLAME DANCED ACROSS HER FRIEND'S LIFE-LESS BODY...

...CHARRING HER TATTERED HABIT, CONSUMING HER SUPPLE FLESH...

...UNTIL ALL THAT REMAINED OF **SISTER DEBRA FURY**...

...WAS NOTHING BUT A PILE OF BURNING **EMBERS** AND SMOLDERING **ASH**.

SHE'S **GONE**.

THEY'RE *ALL* GONE--

--AND I'M AS ***ALONE*** AS THE DAY ***ATTUMA*** *EXILED* ME FROM HIS KINGDOM ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

HOW FAR AWAY IT ALL SEEMS NOW...

BUT NOW THAT HE HAS DE-STROYED MY *SURROGATE HOME*, I DON'T DOUBT ATTUMA-- *FOOL* THAT HE IS-- EXPECTS ME TO BE AN ***EASY MARK.***

HOW PAINFULLY SURPRISED HE WILL BE TO DISCOVER THAT THE LITTLE GIRL HE ONCE KNEW IS NOW A ***MASTER OF THE ANCIENT ATLANTEAN MARTIAL ARTS***--

--AND THE ***RIGHTFUL HEIRESS*** TO THE STOLEN THRONE UPON WHICH HE SITS!

FOR BY THE HONOR OF MY ANCESTORS DO I SOLEMNLY ***SWEAR***--

--THE REIGN OF *ATTUMA THE SHARKAN* FALLS TODAY--

--AND *VENGEANCE* SHALL BE ***MINE!!!***

A WEEK LATER, AT THE NEGATIVE ZONE MILK BAR.

BEING THE HOTTEST CYBERCLUB IN HALO CITY, EVERYTHING ABOUT THE ZONE IS MEANT TO LIBERATE ITS CUSTOMERS FROM THE DRUDGERY OF 21ST CENTURY LIFE.

HALO CITY NEWSFLASH

--REPORTS INDICATE MASSIVE TIDAL WAVES RISING ABOVE OUTER PERIMETER SEAWALLS.

HALO CITY NEWSFLASH

ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS...

MIGHT AS WELL STOP WORRYING ABOUT FINDING A NEW HOME, GANG.

YEAH, 'CUZ IN A MATTER OF DAYS -- WE'RE PROBABLY JUST GONNA *DROWN* TO DEATH...

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE HOMELESS X-NATION, THINGS ONLY SEEM TO BE GOING FROM BAD..

...TO WORSE.

ERE YOU GO, *MES PETIT AMIS!*

T'REE GALLONZ OF ZE BEST *MEELK* WE 'AVE IN ZE 'OUSE.

HUH? OH. YEAH. *THANKS, FIFI.*

NOSTROMO, *MON CHERIE*-- YOU DO NOT SOUND LIKE YOU ARE AT ALL 'APPY TO SEE ME.

DOEZ EET 'AVE SOMETHING TO DO WEETH ALL ZESE LONG FACES?

BAD TIMES, FEEFS. WE'VE BEEN LIVIN' IN ALLEYS AND ABANDONED LOTS FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT. WE GOT NO HOME, NO MONEY--

--WE'RE, LIKE, TOTALLY *BUMMIN'*.

ALORS!

YO, *CRICK*-- SCOPE THIS OUT!

YOU KEEP TAPPIN' ME LIKE THAT, *WATSON*--

--AN' YOU'RE GONNA BE *GRAFTIN'* THAT FINGER BACK ONTO YOUR HAND IN A MINUTE.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, TOUGH GUY. JUST LOOK-- IT'S THOSE KIDS!

WE'D BETTER STEP OUTSIDE AND GET [redacted] THE HORN TO *WARBIRD*...

WARBIRD'S GONNA PAY ME *BEAUCOUP BUCKS* WHEN I TELL HIM HOW I FOUND X-NATION!

NO WAY, JOSE! YOU DIDN'T FIND *JACK!* YOU WERE SO LOADED ON MILK, YOU COULD BARELY EVEN SEE YOUR PASTY FACE IN THE MIRROR!

I SAW 'EM *FIRST,* AND SINCE THOSE BRATS ARE *MY* COLLAR--

--THIS TIME IT'S *MY* CALL! NOW, GIMME THAT TRANSMITTER!

FINE. BUT *NEXT* TIME-- WHEN MY BACK *ISN'T* TURNED-- I'M GONNA *SCORE!*

DUUUDE-- ONCE THE *WILD BOYS* ARE THROUGH WITH X-NATION--

--THERE AIN'T GONNA BE A "*NEXT* TIME!"

HEY, *WARBIRD--* THIS IS *WATSON.* ARE YOU THERE?

I AM *EVERY-WHERE,* WATSON-- *REMEMBER* THAT.

NOW, I ASSUME YOU WOULDN'T DARE *DISTURB* ME UNLESS YOU HAD SOMETHING TO *REPORT...*

C-CRICK AND I'VE LOCATED THE KIDS, 8-BOSS. S-SAME P-PLACE AS LAST TIME-- AT THE *Z-Z-ZONE.*

EXCELLENT. I WANT YOU *BOTH* TO TRAP THEM THERE--

--OR ELSE YOU CAN GUESS WHO'S GOING TO BE MY *NEXT TARGET!*

ULP! G-GOTCHA, CHIEF! THEY AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!

YOU ARE GROSSLY MISTAKEN, BOY.

WHO THE SHOCK--?!

I AM MUTANTKIND'S *DELIVERER,* CHILDREN--

--AND X-NATION IS *MINE!!*

SQUEEZE

MEOW?

S-SOME-THING'S *WRONG*, C-CLARION.

IT'S M-MY *T-TECHNO-ORGANICS*. S-SOMETHING'S... HAPPENING!

I'LL SAY. WHAT'S WITH YOUR *VOICE*? IT SOUNDS SO *HOLLOW*-- SO *METALLIC*--!

CAN FEEL... OUTSIDE FORCE... CALLING... BECKONING... *PULLING* ME!

CAN'T *CONTROL* IT ANYMORE-- GOTTA RELEASE--

..GAAHH!

NOSTROMO!!

WHAT THE SHOCK IS HAPPENIN' TO HIM?!

WAIT UP, NOS-- DON'T RUN AWAY!

I WANNA HELP YOU!

STAY AWAY! NO ONE CAN HELP ME!! NOT YOU--

HEY! WATCH IT, DORK!

--NOT *ANYBODY!*

SLAM!

NOS! COME BACK!

THE DAY HE MET THE TECHNO-ORGANICALLY CRIPPLED MUTANT KNOWN SOLELY AS NOSTROMO, HAYES ISAACS-- AKA CLARION...

...GENEROUSLY VOWED TO HELP THE BOY OVERCOME HIS LIFE-THREATENING DISABILITY, REGARDLESS OF THE COST.

TODAY, HOWEVER, HE MAY VERY WELL PAY THE PRICE FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP!

ZARK!

YEEAARGH!

YEE-HAW!! ONE GEEK DOWN--

--SEVEN TO GO!

AGAINST DA *THREE* OF US, SHIV--

--DEY AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!

SHUT YOUR TRAPS, YOU TWO, AND LET'S SHOW THESE CHILDREN THAT WHEN YOU MESS WITH THE *WILD BOYS*--

--YOU'RE GONNA LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WORD "*PAIN*"!

YOU *WISH*, WARBIRD! X-NATION PUT YOU LOSERS DOWN *ONCE*--

--AND WE'LL KEEP PUTTING YOU DOWN AGAIN AND AGAIN!

YOU SIMPS GOT LUCKY LAST TIME, *TRAITOR*. BUT NOW YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT--

WULFF!

GET YOUR MITTS OFFA MY FRIEND, YOU FILTHY STINKIN' LOWLIFES!!

RRRRoWRRR!

--AND YOU'RE *DEAD*!

ARRRGH!

LET'S SEE YA TRY AN' *MAKE* US, YA BIG *GEEK!*

ZZZZAP!

Yeargh!

HEY DERE, GIRLIE GIRLS--

--WHY DON'TCHA QUIT DISSIN' AN' COME PLAY WIT' DA BIG BOYS?

SORRY, *TOOTHFACE*-- YOU'RE NOT EVEN ON THE SAME *PLANET* AS MY TYPE OF *BOHUNK*--

--SO, YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THE *COLD SHOULDER!*

SLING

STUPID CHICKS-- YOUSE T'INK DEY CALL ME *TRASH* FER NUTHIN'?!

SMASH!

YA SEE HOW EASILY I'M BUSTIN' OUT O' YER DUMB BLOCK O' ICE?

JUST IMAGINE WHAT I'M GONNA DO ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THE BOTH O' YOUSE!

DECEMBER! WATCH OUT-- *UHHNH!*

Whunk!

AAAHhh!

THAT'S TWO MORE OF YER LOSER FRIENDS DOWN FOR THE COUNT, PUNK-- SEEMS T'ME YOU GONNA BE *NEXT!*

NOW, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN YA BEFORE, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT YER MUTANT POWER IS--

--BUT FROM THE LOOKS O' YA, I'M GUESSIN' YOU AIN'T GOT SQUAT THAT CAN STAND UP AGAINST MY *ENERGY BLADES!*

MAYBE SO, WILD BOY. BUT THEN AGAIN--

--MAYBE NOT!

TRRRUM

HEY! WHAT GIVES?

IT'S CALLED *MAGNETISM*, DWEEB!

IT LETS ME MANIPULATE ANY *METALLIC* OBJECT AND USE IT TO KICK YOUR BUTT!

HEY, *TWILIGHT*-- SENDIN' ONE WILD BOY OVER TO YOU, *GORGEOUS!*

THANKS, BABE! I'M SURE THE OL' SHIV-STER REMEMBERS ME FROM *LAST TIME...**

Y-YER THE ONE WHO T-TURNED MY G-GUTS INSIDE OUT!

CORRECTA-*MUNDO!* WHAT SAY WE GET A TAD MORE *MEDIEVAL* THIS TIME...

*X-NATION #1 --MARK

BUT BEFORE TWILIGHT CAN WARP REALITY WITHIN HER SPHERE OF INFLUENCE...

THUNK THUNK THUNK

Uhhnnh!

TWI? WHAT'S-- OH, NO!

WHUMP!

RULE OF SURVIVAL NUMBER ONE...

...*NEVER* TURN YOUR BACK ON AN OPPONENT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BRAWL--

--*ESPECIALLY* WHEN THAT OPPONENT IS *WARBIRD!*

WELCOME TO HALO CITY, NEW BOY--

--YOU WON'T *SURVIVE* THE *EXPERIENCE!*

SMOCK.

MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

NOTHING. NO MATTER HOW FAR I REACH OUT TELEPATHICALLY--

--ALL I GET ARE FAINT TRACES OF X-NATION'S PSI-SIGNATURES, NOTHING CONCRETE.

IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM, I KNOW I'D FEEL THE PSIONIC BACKLASH--

--BUT HAVING SPENT LITTLE TIME TOGETHER, WE'VE YET TO FORGE THE KIND OF PSYCHIC RAPPORT I SHARE WITH MY FELLOW X-MEN.*

*CEREBRA IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF HALO CITY'S PROTECTORATE. --MUTANT MARK

REGARDLESS, THOSE KIDS ARE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE-- I MUST KEEP SEARCHING.

WAITAMINUTE-- I CAN SENSE ONE OF THEM! HE'S APPROACHING FAST...

NOSTROMO! UP HERE!

CEREBRA?! IS THAT YOU?

PLEASE! YOU'VE... GOT TO... HELP ME! I'M LOSING... CONTROL!!

I'LL SAY! I'VE NEVER SEEN NOS'S POWERS ACT UP LIKE THIS BEFORE!

MAYBE A PSI-SCAN WILL SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM.

THE THOUGHTS IN HIS MIND ARE SO DISJOINTED, SO CHAOTIC.

IT'S LIKE THERE'S TWO MINDS OCCUPYING THE SAME BRAIN!

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE HIS HEAD?!

THEY'VE COME FOR ME... CAN'T ESCAPE... *INSIDE* ME... A *PART* OF ME...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- *WHO'S* COME FOR YOU? *WHO'S* INSIDE YOUR MIND?

C-CAN'T STOP THEM... TAKING *C-CONTROL* OF ME... *UHHHNNH!*

SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS, NOS--

--BUT IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD THAT I SHUT DOWN YOUR *NERVOUS SYSTEM* UNTIL WE CAN GET YOU TO THE X-MEN FOR SOME PROPER HELP.

BUT... WHAT ABOUT... MY *FRIENDS?*

AS SOON AS YOU'RE BACK ON YOUR FEET, WE'LL BOTH SCOUR THE CITY IN SEARCH OF--

GAAAAHHH!

PSIONIC BACKLASH! SO POWERFUL, SO PAINFUL!

CEREBRA! WHAT'S...WRONG? DID YOU... FIND... X-NATION?

YES, I FELT THEIR PSI-SIGNATURES SURGE FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT--

--AND THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY WERE *GONE!* BUT THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING--

"X-NATION...

"...IS DEAD!!"

TO BE CONCLUDED!

KERASH

AAAARRIGHT!

WE'RE--

--IN...

FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARRIVED AT THE XAVIER SHELTER, THE CHILDREN OF X-NATION WERE TAUGHT TO RESPECT THEIR ELDERS.

NOT BECAUSE BEING OLDER MAKES YOU PERFECT, OR THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT BECAUSE YOU'RE A GROWN-UP...

...BUT BECAUSE AGE BRINGS EXPERIENCE, INSIGHT AND, ABOVE ALL ELSE-- WISDOM.

FOR THE MOST PART, THESE REBELLIOUS YOUNGSTERS IGNORED THIS IMPORTANT LESSON, CHOOSING TO DEFY THE SISTERS' EDICTS AT EVERY POSSIBLE TURN.

BUT NOW, AS THEIR MENTORS LAY BRUTALLY SLAIN BEFORE THEM...

...X-NATION REGRETS THAT THEY WILL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO SHOW THE HOWLERS THE RESPECT THEY TRULY DESERVED.

OR, WILL THEY... ?

ATLANTEAN SHARKTROOPERS... ATTACKED WITHOUT WARNING... WEREN'T PREPARED TO REPEL...*

UHHHHHHHHH...

OMIGOD-- SISTER NICK'S MOVING! SHE'S ALIVE!!!

UHHHH... BARELY...

STAN LEE PRESENTS...

A TRAGIC TALE FROM THE WORLD OF TOMORROW, FEATURING: X-NATION!

GIMME SHELTER

BEN RAAB & TERRY KAVANAGH
STORY
BEN RAAB
SCRIPT
ERIC BATTLE
PENCILS
RALPH CABRERA
INKS
J. BABCOCK – LETTERS
J. BROWN – COLORS
MALIBU – ENHANCEMENTS
MARK POWERS – MAN OF TOMORROW
BOB HARRAS – CHIEF

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